

- 19 -

## CLAIMS:

1. A system for facilitating a transaction, the system comprising:

5 obtaining means operable to obtain information pertaining to an object that is for sale;

forwarding means operable to forward the information pertaining to the object to a first computing device that is arranged to present the information to a prospective purchaser; and

10 establishing means operable to establish a communicating means associated with the first computing device and a second computing device that is used by a person managing a sale of the object, the communicating means being such that it allows the prospective purchaser and the person managing the sale to use the first computing device and the second computing device, respectively, to communicate with each other in relation to the sale of the object, thereby facilitating the transaction.

20

2. The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the communicating means is operable to assist the person managing the sale to conduct the sale in accordance with an auction process or a tender process.

25

3. The system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the tender process comprises a closed tender process or an open tender process.

30

4. The system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the communicating means is operable to restrict an ability of the prospective purchaser to communicate with the person managing the sale based on whether the prospective person is registered to participate in the sale of the object.

35

5. The system as claimed in any one of claims 1

- 20 -

to 4, wherein the communicating means is operable to create a record of communication between the prospective purchaser and the person managing the sale.

5           6.    The system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the communicating means is operable to allow a party to use a third computing device to access and edit the information pertaining to the sale.

10           7.    The system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the obtaining means is operable to obtain the information pertaining to the object from a computer system via a first communication network.

15           8.    The system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the obtaining means is operable to determine whether it is authorised to receive the information pertaining to the object.

20           9.    The system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the forwarding means is operable to use a second communication network in order to forward the information pertaining to the object to the first computing device.

25           10.   The system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the obtaining means is operable to obtain additional information associated with an agency engaged by an owner of the object to oversee the sale of the object,  
30   whilst the forwarding means is operable to forward the additional information to the first computing device which is arranged to present the additional information to the prospective purchaser.

35           11.   The system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the information pertaining to the sale comprises: an image of the object; details of the sale;

- 21 -

and/or a contract for the sale of the object.

12. The system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the object comprises real estate.

5

13. A method for facilitating a transaction, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining information pertaining to an object that is for sale;

10 forwarding the information pertaining to the object to a first computing device that is arranged to present the information to a prospective purchaser; and  
establishing a communicating means associated with the first computing device and a second computing  
15 device that is used by a person managing a sale of the object, the communicating means being such that it allows the prospective purchaser and the person managing the sale to use the first computing device and the second computing device, respectively, to communicate with each other in  
20 relation to the sale of the object, thereby facilitating the transaction.

14. The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the communicating means is operable to assist the person  
25 managing the sale to conduct the sale in accordance with an auction process or a tender process.

15. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the tender process comprises a closed tender process or an  
30 open tender process.

16. The method as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 15, wherein the communicating means is operable to restrict an ability of the prospective purchaser to  
35 communicate with the person managing the sale based on whether the prospective person is registered to participate in the sale of the object.

- 22 -

17. The method as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 16, wherein the communicating means is operable to create a record of communication between the prospective purchaser and the person managing the sale.

18. The method as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 17, wherein the communicating means is operable to allow a party to use a third computing device to access and edit the information pertaining to the object.

19. The method as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 18, wherein the step of obtaining the information pertaining to the object comprises obtaining the information from a computer system via a communication network.

20. The method as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 19, wherein the step of obtaining the information pertaining to the object comprises determining whether the information pertaining to the object is authorised to be obtained.

21. The method as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 20, wherein the step of forwarding the information comprises using a communication network in order to forward the information pertaining to the sale to the first computing device.

22. The method as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 21, wherein the method further comprises the step of obtaining additional information associated with an agency engaged by an owner of the object to oversee the sale of the object, whilst the step of forwarding the information comprises forwarding the additional information to the first computing device which is arranged to present the additional information to the prospective purchaser.

- 23 -

23. The method as claimed in any one of claims  
13 to 22, wherein the information pertaining to the sale  
comprises: an image of the object; details of the sale;  
5 and/or a contract for the sale of the object.

24. The method as claimed in any one of claims  
13 to 23, wherein the object comprises real estate.

10 25. A computer program that comprises at least  
one instruction for causing a computing device to carry out  
the method as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 24.

15 26. A computer readable medium comprising the  
computer program claimed in claim 25.

27. The system as claimed in claim 1 and  
substantially as herein described with reference to the  
accompanying figures.

20 28. The method as claimed in claim 13 and  
substantially as herein described with reference to the  
accompanying figures.